



**City of Atlanta  
Department of Public Works**

## **Automatic Public Facilities**

In an effort to address the need for public restrooms, the City of Atlanta will be installing five Automatic Public Facilities (APF) throughout the City. The installation of these facilities will benefit all who live, work and visit Atlanta.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is an Automatic Public Facility (APF)?**

- An Automatic Public Facility is a pre-fabricated restroom with electrical and plumbing equipment that is set in place and tapped to existing City utility services.

#### **How much will this initiative cost?**

- The total cost of installation and two year maintenance of all five Public Toilet Facilities is \$1.5 million.

#### **Is this money coming from the City's general fund?**

- No, the funds are apart of Atlanta Development Authority's Homeless Opportunity Fund (HOF), which will assist the City in its efforts to end long-term homelessness.

#### **What vendor was chosen to do this project, and why?**

- Public Facilities and Services, Incorporated was chosen through the City's RFP process.
- To date, Public Facilities and Services has the following customers:
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority – WMATA (*one unit*)
- Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority – MARTA (*twelve units*)
- Cobb Community Transit – CCT (*two units*)
- Potomac Rappahannock Transit Commission – PRTC (*one unit*)

#### **Where will these facilities be located?**

- Atlanta City Hall – 55 Trinity Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia

- Atlanta Fire Station #4 – 309 Edgewood Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia
- Atlanta Fire Station #21- 3201 Roswell Road, Atlanta, Georgia
- Piedmont Park – 1345 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia
- Woodruff Park – 91 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia

#### **How were the locations selected?**

The Public Facilities Committee was created as an adjunct committee of the Regional Commission of Homelessness to review opportunities to install public facilities in the City's areas where the need was identified. The Committee recommended five sites as being ideal locations for installing public facilities, based on traffic flow/public movement patterns and the availability of facilities in the highly-traveled areas.

#### *Criteria for choosing locations*

- Selected by Public Facilities Committee based on data on areas that the public frequents which do not have adequate access to public facilities.
- Provide large coverage in critical areas of the City.
- Department of Public Works assessed the sites for utility availability (water, power, sewer and telephone) and confirmed that preparations required were minimal (paving and/or leveling).

#### **Will these facilities stand out in the communities they are located?**

- No, these facilities will be state of the art stainless steel with high quality fiberglass ceilings, ceramic tile floors that will add unique character to the communities they are placed.

#### **Are there other cities throughout the United States that currently have Automatic Public Facilities? Yes,**

- Seattle Washington
- Boston, Maine
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- San Francisco, California
- New York City, New York

#### **What about the hygienic implications of these facilities?**

- The seats will be sanitized after every use (*automatic sanitizing*).
- There will be integrated sensor operated basins (*soap, water and air dry*).
- There will also be periodic cleaning cycles with sanitizing solutions. The entire facility will be cleansed based upon a time schedule programmed by the City of Atlanta.

#### **Who will be responsible for maintenance of these facilities?**

- All maintenance will be handled by Public Facilities and Services, Incorporated which will include cleaning, management, service, maintenance and monitoring for two years (*after the two years, the City can renegotiate with PFS or takeover maintenance*).

**What is the maintenance schedule?**

- The service and maintenance contract calls for daily visits for replenishment of all consumables (toilet paper, hand-soap, sanitizer), and manual cleaning and adjustments to systems as necessary.
- The contract guarantees service response to any issues or outages within three hours, but submits that this is usually accomplished within 30 minutes. The units will be monitored remotely by Public Facilities and Services (PFS).

**Of the \$1.5 million how much will be used for the two year maintenance?**

The cost of the 2 years of maintenance agreement for all five locations is \$290,000.

**What about the public safety factors associated with Automatic Public Facilities?**

- The City of Atlanta will determine the hours of operation for these facilities
- The times can be changed by City officials at will, and be set daily, weekly or hourly
- Throughout this entire process there have been stakeholder meetings with City agencies such as Atlanta Police Department to develop strategies to ensure these facilities do not become places of vandalism and loitering.
- These facilities will also be equipped with sensors located on the ceiling and floors. If no movement is detected within 3 minutes (*movement detection time can also be changed at anytime*), the unit will revert to vacant mode to ensure safety.
- The facilities will also be monitored from a monitoring facility.

**What about vandalism?**

- The porcelain on steel interiors ensures graffiti can be easily removed.
- The public also will not be able to vandalize these facilities (internally); recessed components, tapered corners and edges will not be able to be pried off.
- The service fixtures are also not accessible by the public.

**What about overall safety?**

- All the interior areas of the facilities will be visible from the exterior; there are no hiding places in the facilities.
- They will also be equipped with emergency backup lighting for use in the event of power failure.
- The remote monitoring will also allow City Officials to monitor the units on an hourly basis.

- Remote access will also permit the units to be opened and closed by City Officials as needed.
- The City will take all the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of the public.

**Who are the units being installed for?**

- The units are being installed for use by anyone. The project was funded by ADA's Homeless Opportunity Bond.

**Will the units be ADA accessible?**

- Yes, all units are built using ADA standards.

**What is the average usage of these facilities?**

- Data provided by Public Facilities and Services Incorporated indicates the average usage is between 150 to 400 uses per day. The City of Atlanta's usage statistics will be available through a monthly usage report.

**What is the life expectancy of Automatic Public Facilities?**

- The actual buildings are designed to last 30-50 years
- Some mechanical components are designed to last 5-10 years or more before needing replacement or refurbishment

**What do the facilities look like?**

- Below is a photo of an Automatic Public Facility. Cladding may vary by location.



**What about water consumption? What are the “green” features of the Automatic Public Facilities?**

- The toilet paper dispenser actually cuts down on toilet paper use. Rather than free-flowing toilet paper the unit provides paper in metered pieces. The amount of paper provided is programmable to most closely meet the needs of users. Users are adequately accommodated and toilet paper theft and vandalism is eliminated.
- The hand wash station utilizes an energy efficient water “warming” device that is factory pre-set to assure a constant temperature. Water consumption in the hand wash station is based on hand movement under a motion sensor.
- The hand wash station also utilizes a warm air hand dryer that is activated by hand movement under a motion sensor. Air dryers eliminate the need for paper towels.
- Low energy consumption fluorescent lighting and bright interior porcelain walls provide sufficient lighting during use.
- Computer controlled self-closing and opening features ensure that the unit is turned off when not in use.
- Many other computer controlled features such as timed extract fan, pre-set climate control, and adjustable door opening times ensure that the unit is operating at optimal efficiency.
- An efficient wash system sanitizes the seat after every use and the floor after a pre-set number of uses. The wash system has been proven to eliminate 99% of bacteria. The result is the cleanest restroom facility with the least use of water.
- The system uses low voltage solenoid activation systems to ensure optimal and efficient operating conditions.